THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) 654 consequential train accidents took place between 1st January, 1998 to 31st August, 1999.

(b) Fifty six.

(c) All accidents are being inquired at different levels. Those serious accidents which involve loss of life, injuries and/or substantial property damage to Railway property are inquired into by Commissioner of Railway Safety. Remaining cases are inquired into by the Railway Officials at different levels.

Free Transit on Indian Railways

507. SHRI ANIL SHARAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing changes made in the categories of persons allowed free transit on Indian Railways;

(b) what categories are allowed 100% concession, 50% concession and less than that in procurement of tickets for their travel in India;

(c) whether Govt. are considering to grant more cconcession to senior citizens above the age of 75; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) No changes have been made in the existing categories of passes for free travel on Indian Railways.

(b) A statement is enclosed (*see* below)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to financial constraints, it has not been possible to grant more concession to senior citizens above the age of 75 years.

Statement

(i) No category is allowed 100% concession in the fare. However, the following categories are issued Complimentary Card/Cheque passes for free travel on the Railways.

(1) Freedom Fighters. (Cost is borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs.)

(2) Arjuna Awardees/Olympic Medalists/ Asian & Commonwealth Gold Medalists/ Dronacharya Awardees.

(3) Winners of Chakra series Gallantry Awards (Defence).

(4) Winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry & Police Medal for Gallantry (Police).

(5) Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federations of India, Indian Olympic Association and State Olympic Associations affiliated to Indian Olympic Association.

(6) Ex. MRs/MOS(R)s/DMRs.

(7) Non-official Members of Hindi Salahkar Samiti.

(8) Complimentary Card Passes to eminent persons/Organisations engaged in social/cultural/education/sports/ welfare activities & to others on compassionate/medical grounds, etc. issued under the discreationary powers of the Minister for Railways.

(9) Complimentary cheque passes (valid for single to and fro journey) under the discretionary powers of Minister for Railways, Minister of State for Railways and Railway Board.

(10) Licensed Porters.

(ii) Ministry of Railways grant concession at 50% and below in single journey tickets to the following categories of person:

	I CLASS	II/SLEEPER CLASS
1. Deaf & Dumb persons (both afflictions together in the same person) — travelling for any purpose.	50%	50%
2. Sr. Citizens of the age of 65 years and above. travelling for any purpose.	30% in all classes and Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains	
3. Recepients of President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, after attaining the age of 60 years (instructions put up to MR for approval) travelling for any purpose.	30% in all classes and Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains.	
4. National Awardee Teachers — Teachers honoured with National Award by the President of India for exemplary service in the field of education travelling for any purposes.		50%

5.	Either of parent accompanying the Child Recipients of National Bravery Award — travelling for any purpose.	-	50%
6.	Bonafide students:	-	50%
7.	Foreign students studying in India - travelling to attend camps/seminars organised by Govt. of India and also visit to places of historical & other importance during vacations.	-	50%
8.	Research scholars upto the age of 35 years — for journeys in connection with research work.	-	50%
9.	Youths attending National Integration Camps of:		
	(a) National Youth Project	-	50%
	(b) Manav Uththan Sewa Samiti	-	40%
10.	Students and non-students participating in Work Camps.	-	25%
11.	Unemployed youths appearing in interviews for jobs in PSUs.	-	50%
12.	Cadets and Marine Engineers apprentices undergoing Navigational/Engineering training for Mercantile Marine — for travel between home and training ship	-	50%
13.	Bharat Scouts & Guides — for scouting duty	-	50%
14.	Teachers of Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools — for educational tours.	-	25%
15.	Kisans and Industrial Labourers — for visit to agricultural/industrial exhibitions.	-	25%
16.	Kisans travelling by Govt. sponsored Special trains.	-	33%
17.	Delegates for attending Annual Conferences of	-	50%
	(i) Bharat Krishak Samaj and		
	(ii) Sarvodaya Samaj, Wardha.		
18.	Delegates attending Annual Conferences of certain All India bodies of social/cultural/ educational importance.	-	25%

19.	Nurses & Midwives — for leave and duty	—	25%
20.	Members of St. John Ambulance Brigade and Relief Welfare Ambulance Corps, Calcutta — for ambulance camps/competitions.	—	25%
21.	Bharat Sewa Dal, Bangalore — for attending camps/meeting/rallies/trekking programmes.	—	25%
22.	Volunteers of Service Civil Internationa — for social service.	—	25%
23.	Artistes — for performance.	50%	
24.	Sportsmen participating in All India and State tournaments.	50%	
25.	Persons taking part in Mountaineering Expeditions organised by IMF	50%	

26. Press Correspondents accredited to the Coupon books at 50% Headquarters of Government of India/State concession in all classes Government/Union Territories/ Districts for press for 30,000 Kms per annum work.

(iii) Ministry of Railways grant concession at 50% and below in season tickets to the following categories of persons:

		I Class	II Class
1.	Orthopaedically Handicapped/Paraplegic persons alongwith an escort (for both)	50%	50%
2.	Blind persons travelling alone or with an escort (for both)	50%	50%
3.	Mentally retarded persons travelling with an escort (for both)	50%	50%
4.	Deaf & Dumb persons (both afflications together in the same person)	50%	50%
5.	Ostomy patients	50%	50%
6.	Bonafide students	50%	50%

(iv) Children below 5 years of age carried free. Besides, children 5 years & above but below 12 years of age charged half of the adult fare. These are not considered concessions as it is the method of charging for Children.

Surplus Railway Land

508. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the surplus land in the Railways;